

Rochester, NY – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) and Rochester Mayor Tom Richards joined today with U.S. Deputy Secretary of Transportation John Porcari and dozens of rail supporters and community leaders to celebrate a \$15 million federal grant that will fund the construction of Rochester's new intermodal train and intercity bus station.

Deputy Secretary Porcari, a Rochester native, today stood alongside Slaughter, Richards, and officials from New York State and Amtrak to say that the station first built in 1978, which was meant to be temporary, would finally be replaced thanks to a strong partnership and funding from federal, state and city governments.

"In a grand design that echoes the Bragdon Station that came before it, our new intermodal train station will be more than a building. It will be a gateway for thousands of travelers and a monument to those who call Rochester home," said Slaughter, New York's leading rail advocate and founder of the Upstate Congressional Caucus and the Bi-Cameral High-Speed & Intercity Passenger Rail Caucus. "With this vital funding for our new station, we stand poised to reunite Rochester's transportation network and revive rail travel in Upstate New York. Everyday more and more New Yorkers are choosing to travel by train, and yet we've been neglecting our rail network. Today, that changes. When complete, the new station will bring together rail travel, bus service, car rentals, bikes and pedestrians and serve our city and region for generations to come. Every single person who walks off a train in Rochester deserves a grand welcome to a great city and they will finally have it."

"The Rochester Intermodal Transportation Center project will continue to strengthen the city's economic development while improving safety and accessibility," said Deputy Secretary Porcari. "As part of President Obama's plan for an America built to last, TIGER projects like this one will create jobs today while providing better, safer transportation options and a stronger economic future for the nation."

"Louise Slaughter has been a champion of bringing better and faster passenger rail service to Western New York for many years, so it is extremely gratifying to see that vision take shape in her home district," said Mayor Thomas S. Richards. "Her leadership in securing these funds means that Rochester will finally have an Intermodal Transportation Center befitting of its status as world class city. This station will serve as an important gateway for the entire region and provide yet another reason for the private sector to recognize the tremendous investment potential in Downtown Rochester."

The \$15 million celebrated today adds to the [\\$2.8 million Slaughter secured from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act](#) and additional stimulus funding rejected by Florida for the scoping and design of the station.

In addition to the \$15 million made available by the TIGER grant program, the station's design and construction will also receive \$7.5 million pledged by the New York Department of Transportation and \$500,000 from the City of Rochester.

"Thanks to Congresswoman Louise Slaughter and Governor Andrew Cuomo, high-speed passenger rail service is closer to becoming a reality across New York State," State Department of Transportation Commissioner Joan McDonald said. "The Rochester Intermodal Transportation Center -- made possible by New York State's winning this latest, highly competitive grant -- will become a welcoming gateway for Empire Corridor passengers. The new intermodal station will connect train travelers to local transportation and Rochester's downtown, significantly improving their travel experience by adding to the convenience, reliability and accessibility of train travel across the state."

"Amtrak congratulates the NYS DOT and the City of Rochester on the successful award of their TIGER grant application for the construction of new intermodal transportation center in downtown Rochester," said Joseph McHugh, Vice President, Government Affairs/Corporate Communications, Amtrak. "We appreciate the good work of Congresswoman Slaughter in making this project a reality for the City of Rochester and residents of New York State, and for her leadership in Congress on passenger rail issues."

According to estimates from rail experts, the number of rail passengers expected to use the Rochester station will double by 2035. Last year 140,000 people came through the station, five percent more than the year before.

Over the past five years, ridership has increased by 40 percent along the Empire Corridor which stretches across Upstate New York.

Last month, the second public meeting was held seeking public input on a design for the new

station proposed by Bergmann Associates. The proposed design is a modern interpretation of one of the early stations in Rochester, Union Station or the Bragdon Station as it was also known, which opened in 1914.

During the grant application process, Slaughter wrote to U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and brought together business, education and transportation stakeholders to urge the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the much needed improvements to Rochester's dilapidated station. On February 10, Slaughter hosted a meeting with Secretary LaHood, Deputy Secretary Porcari, NYSDOT Commissioner McDonald and Mayor Richards to discuss progress on the Rochester station project.

[In April 2010, Secretary LaHood visited the Rochester station.](#)

Letters of support for the project were submitted by the Rochester Business Alliance, Rochester Downtown Development Corporation, University of Rochester, Rochester Institute of Technology, Urban League of Rochester, Trailways, CSX, Empire State Passenger Association, Genesee Transportation Council, and Greater Rochester Enterprise.